

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

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R 141030Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1805

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12520

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IT

SUBJECT: UIL CRISIS - SECRETARIAT RESIGNS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. ENTIRE UIL SECRETARIAT RESIGNED NOV 12 IN SUR-
PRISE MOVE FOLLOWING INABILITY OF UIL CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO PASS
RESOLUTION ON UNITARY PLANT LEVEL ORGANIZATION (FACTORY COUNCILS).
EVENTS MAY REPRESENT SOCIALIST MANEUVER WREST CONTROL OF UIL FROM
REPUBLICAN VANNI. UIL CRISIS MAY HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON TRADE
UNION INFLUENCE IN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AREA. CRISIS MAY ALSO
ADVERSELY AFFECT MOVE TOWARD TRADE UNION UNITY. MOST OBSERVERS,
HOWEVER, FEEL UIL WILL SOON REACH COMPROMISE SINCE ITS ALTERNA-
TIVE IS DEMISE. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING A WEEK-LONG UIL CONFERENCE CONCERNED WITH FACTORY
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COUNCILS (UNITARY FORM OF WORKER REPRESENTATION AT PLANT LEVEL)

THE UIL CENTRAL COMMITTEE MET NOV 11 TO APPROVE WHAT HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO BE A ROUTINE COMPROMISE RESOLUTION ACCEPTABLE BOTH TO ADVOCATES OF AN ACCELERATED PACE TOWARD LABOR UNITY AND TO THOSE MORE RETICENT ON TIMING AND STEPS TO TAKE. INSTEAD, UIL METALWORKERS PRECIPITATED A CRISIS BY REFUSING TO MODIFY THEIR POSITION REGARDING COMPOSITION OF FACTORY COUNCILS. SOCIALIST COMPONENT (49) IN UIL CENTRAL COMMITTEE (109 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP) WAS CONVINCED BY FACTION LEADER RUFINO TO BACK UP METALWORKERS UNITY THESIS. SOCIAL DEMOCRATS (30) THEN POSED CLEAR ALTERNATE RESOLUTION. REPUBLICANS (30) ATTEMPTED MEDIATION WITHOUT SUCCESS.

3. WITH POSITIONS THUS SOLIDIFIED ALONG PARTY LINES SOCIALISTS HAD UPPER HAND BECAUSE NECESSARY 60 PERCENT MAJORITY CANNOT BE ACHIEVED THROUGH COMBINED REPUBLICAN/SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC VOTES BUT ONLY THROUGH REPUBLICAN/SOCIALISTS OR SOCIAL DEMOCRAT/SOCIALIST ALLIANCE. ALL-NIGHT NOV 12 SESSION OF SECRETARIAT AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE FAILED TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES AND FINAL VOTE OF 77 MEMBERS PRESENT WAS 31 IN FAVOR RUFINO RES (PSI) AND 21 FOR RAVECCA MOTION (PSDI) WITH 25 REPUBLICAN ABSTAINING BOTH MOTIONS. FOLLOWING THIS VOTE THE ENTIRE ELEVEN-MAN SECRETARIAT (3 REPUBLICANS, 3 SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND 5 SOCIALISTS) RESIGNED. NOW CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING IS CONVOKED FOR NOV 22 WHEN UIL WILL ATTEMPT HAMMER OUT COMPROMISE.

4. SUBSTANCE OF TWO MOTIONS IS AS FOLLOWS: (1) RUFINO (PSI) - THIS MOTION LINING UP WITH METALWORKER THESIS CALLED FOR AN ELECTION OF WORKER REPS AT THE FACTORY LEVEL TO BE BY SECRET BALLOT AND BLANK LIST, I.E., NO SPECIFIC CANDIDATES FROM CGIL, CISL OR UIL. NO GUARANTEES FOR MINORITY UNION REPRESENTATION ON FACTORY COUNCILS. ALL WORKERS UNION AND NON-UNION ALIKE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE. (2) RAVECCA (&PSDI) - TWO LISTS OF CANDIDATES FOR FACTORY COUNCILS. ONE COULD BE BLANK SLATE WITHOUT UNION DESIGNATION BUT SOME FACTORY COUNCIL REPS SHOULD BE CHOSEN FROM A SLATE OF CANDIDATES GUARANTEEING REPRESENTATION OF ALL THREE UNIONS.

5. UIL SEC GEN VANNI TOLD LABATT THAT THE UNEXPECTED CRISIS REPRESENTS EFFORT BY UIL SOCIALISTS TO MANEUVER AND CONTROL UIL POLICY. METHOD ATTEMPTED WOULD HAVE ISOLATED UIL SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND MADE REPUBLICANS PRISONERS OF SOCIALISTS. VANNI MET TACTIC BY DENOUNCING UIL LINE-UP ALONG PARTY LINES AND HE CALLED FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERNAL UNITY, RESPECTING DIVERSE POSITIONS ON ALL ISSUES.

6. SOCIALIST/SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FACE OFF MAY, HOWEVER, BE MORE APPARENT THAN REAL SINCE SOZILIST LEADER RUFINO WHO ASPIRES TO BE SEC GEN HAS SUGGESTED TO EMBASSY THAT REAL OBJECTIVE SOCIALIST IMPROVISED MOVE IS TO END VANNI'S PERSONAL HANDLING OF THE UIL WHEREIN HE CONSIDERS HIMSELF THE INDISPENSABLE LEADER. ACCORDING RUFINO A COMPROMISE, WHICH PRESERVES PROPER COMMITMENT TO TRADE

UNION UNITY IN FACTORS MIGHT BE REACHED WITH THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY "L'UNITA" EDITORIALIZES THAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SOCIALISTS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS NOT GREAT AND COMPROMISE SHOULD BE POSSIBLE.

7. IN SPITE OF SOCIALIST TACTIC VANNI MAY STILL HAVE KEY TO RES UIL CRISIS FOR SAME REASONS HE IS NOW SECGEN. A SOCIALIST/SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE WOULD CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR BOTH GROUPS SINCE THEY ARE GENERALLY LEFT (PSI) AND RIGHT (PSDI) OF VANNI. REPUBLICAN GLUE REMAINS IMPORTANT FOR COMPROMISE POSITION. ALSO, BOTH CISL AND CGIL, SURPRISED BY UIL CRISIS, HAVE CALLED FOR ITS PROMPT RESOLUTION. CGIL AND CISL, INTERESTED IN SMOOTHLY OPERATING FEDERATION CGIL, CISL, UIL, ARE LIKELY TO PRESS FOR CONTINUATION VANNI WHO PERSONALLY IDENTIFIED AS PART OF LABOR TROIKA. AS COUNTERWEIGHT, HOWEVER, PART OF CISL ANTI-UNITY MINORITY IS MEETING TO DETERMINE WHETHER COMMON CAUSE MIGHT BE MADE WITH SOME UIL SOCIAL DEMOCRATS.

8. ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS OF PROLONGED UIL CRISIS COULD BE CONSIDERABLE. ONGOING MEETINGS OF LAMA, STORTI AND VANNI WITH PRIMIN RUMOR AND HIS CABINET ON PRICES, INVESTMENT AND REFORMS COULD BE DISRUPTED. UIL INTERNAL PROBLEM MIGHT ALSO AFFECT CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS. CRISIS BOUND TO HAVE EFFECT ON MOVE TOWARD LABOR UNITY BY ONCE MORE DEMONSTRATING THAT THOSE WHO PUSH FOR FULL UNITY ENDANGER ITS EVENTUAL REALIZATION. UNLIKE THE UIL SOCIALISTS, THE CGIL COMMUNISTS APPEAR TO BE WELL AWARE OF THIS.

9. INITIAL CONCLUSION MOST OBSERVERS IT THAT UIL WILL REACH A COMPROMISE SINCE THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE IF UIL IS TO CONTINUE A REASONABLY VIABLE ORGANIZATION. VOLPE

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